

# Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: October 13, 2005

## **MONTANA**

Population Estimates by Age, Gender, Race & Hispanic Origin: 2004 <a href="http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesCntyPop.htm">http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesCntyPop.htm</a>

The U.S. Census Bureau has released estimates for the state and counties for age, gender, race and Hispanic origin. The data are from the population estimates program as of July 1, 2004.

## Age

Montana continues to see growth in its older population. Grouped in five-year intervals, those aged 55 to 59 are the fastest growing group, at a pace of 27% since 2000. To add to this, second place goes to their immediate elders in the age 60 to 64 category (21% growth), with a third place finish to the sophomore class ages 50 to 54 (18% growth). The fastest declining age group is those ages 35 to 39. In general, you are more likely to see a decline in population for people in their lower 40's and under, and an increase for those persons 45 and older, including an incredible 17% increase from 2000 for those persons 85 and over.

### Race and Ethnicity

American Indians represented 6.2% of the statewide population in 2000, and today that number stands at 6.4%. While statistically the fastest growing minority population is African Americans at a 22% growth rate, the historically low population for this group makes this a little bit misleading. The growth for African Americans is 634 persons; whereas the 20% growth rate for Hispanics is represented by an increase of 3,609 persons (*surpassing the 3,081 total new persons for American Indians*). Growth for American Indians as a percentage of county population continued to be highest in counties containing reservation land, with the exception of Lake and Phillips County, which saw a decrease relative to the Non-Indian population.

## Gender

The male to female ratio in Montana is pretty much at parity, and the numbers are getting even closer:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Male	450,252	451,588	453,778	457,818	462,265
Female	453,248	454,653	456,892	460,339	464,600
Difference	2,996	3,065	3,114	2,521	2,335
Percentage	0.67%	0.68%	0.69%	0.55%	0.51%

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